

The Eco-Friendly Side of Habitat for Humanity

INTRO: This organization is dedicated to helping the lives of those less fortunate. Our focus was to find out how beneficial and sustainable it is for the environment and the surrounding community.

METHODS: We met with the Executive Director of Education, the RSO Outreach Chair, and one of the fundraising directors. We asked about the materials they use and how sustainable they are and the benefits people receive for being a part of the organization. If people benefited from it then the organization is also sustainable for the community.

RESULTS:

- Students are able to connect with the members of the community they work with.
- They use donated material so they don't spend a lot of money.
- UIUC's Habitat is known for being most energy-star rated and are the most energy efficient Habitat for Humanity in the country.
- LEED certified
- Strive not be wasteful: properly recycle their electronics, resell their items in their store so materials don't end up in a landfill.
- This county's Habitat receives free insulation and paint and gets tons of discounts. Lowe's gives them \$5,000 of grant money. Home Depot donates materials.
- Plumbers, electricians work for free because they're people who are still gaining experience so become professionals in their field.
- High school kids work for free to learn the different trades involved with building a house.

CONCLUSION:

- Brings the community together.
- Businesses and residents all come together as a cohesive unit.
- The organization does everything in their power to be as environmentally sustainable as possible.
- Donation based organization so they're more inclined to incorporate eco-friendly materials; they have to use what they receive.
- Habitat is aware of the impact they have on the environment, but at the end of the day, their main goal is to build a safe affordable home.



<http://team8ballaz.blogspot.com/2010/04/habitat-for-humanity-champaign-leisure.html>



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